

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
April 22, 2019

Selectboard Members Present: Bruce Duchesne, John McClallen, Pat Pranger, Rose Regula and Nelson Tift.

Others present: Julie Sharon, Sandi Switzer, Phil Baker, Lisa Williams, Connie Berger, Steve Berger, Lisa Wright, Joyce Barbieri, Christopher Dunigan, Joyce McMahan, Michael McMahan, Ken Welch, Mark Tessier, Thomas Hand, John Armstrong, and Ann Vanneman.

Chair N. Tift called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Agenda Amendments. None.

Minutes. B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by J. McClallen to approve the 04/01/19 Minutes with a minor correction. Motion carried (4-0). P. Pranger abstained since she was not at the meeting.

Pay Orders. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger approving the pay order total of \$59,412.99 after \$9 was added for Initial Ideas and \$9 was added for state Dept. of Motor Vehicles. Motion carried (5-0).

Selectboard Vice Chair. N. Tift nominated R. Regula as Selectboard Vice Chair. P. Pranger seconded the nomination. With no other nominees, the Board voted 4-0 to approve R. Regula as Vice Chair. R. Regula abstained from voting.

Assessor Quarterly Report. Assessor Lisa Wright provided a brief overview of the Tinmouth/Wallingford town line matter related to the Stan Taylor property. She noted Tinmouth Town Clerk Gail Fallar responded to a public records' request by providing the Town with several documents. She said not all requested deeds were provided. L. Wright said Tinmouth believed the Dean Russell tax maps were correct. She then read aloud the disclaimer on the maps for the record – "This is not a survey...This Map was prepared from Deeds & Surveys recorded in the Town Clerk's Office. The accuracy of this map is to be determined by the filed information. ALL INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE."

N. Tift suggested a meeting between Selectboard members and lister/assessor in both towns in an effort to resolve the matter. L. Wright said she became involved in this matter prior to the 2017 reappraisal in an effort by her office to reconcile parcels that overlap with other towns. She said both towns agreed to use Russell Graphics tax maps as guides with deeds supporting the decisions for several properties, However, she said it was less clear with the Stan Taylor property.

J. McClallen said the owners of the property paid taxes to the Town of Wallingford for 200 years. He questioned how Russell Graphics would draw maps without deeds and everyone went along with it. After further discussion, the Board agreed to invite Tinmouth Selectboard members and Ms. Fallar to a meeting. In a response to a question from P. Pranger, N. Tift said the Board received incorrect information in 2017 leading to an errors and omission decision.

Road Commissioner Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker said the Town was not heavily impacted by the latest rain and flood event. He said the rail project on Hartsboro Road was completed and would be paved soon. He added the road crew had been grading some roads.

The road commissioner asked if the Town wanted to sell the Ford 550. Board members agreed and directed P. Baker to draft a specification sheet and put it out to bid.

P. Baker said the road crew would take transfer station tires to Rutland County Solid Waste District this week. There was a discussion regarding disposal of yard waste piling up at the transfer station. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said she was waiting to hear back from RCSWD and Casella on options for disposal.

Third Quarter Financials. Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon provided an overview of FY'19 third quarter financials. She noted 85% of property taxes had been collected and approximately \$107,000 in uncollected taxes would be turned over to the delinquent tax collector. This figures was done from \$135,000 last year. She pointed out that road crew overtime was over budget. J. Sharon responded to a question about the paving budget being overspent by indicating the Board had agreed to use some of the gravel funds for paving.

The town clerk and treasurer responded to a question about the Reappraisal Fund by indicating there was \$80,000 in a CD for reappraisal and the Town received about \$10,000 annually from the state for that purpose.

Regarding a transaction related to the Nellie Bixby Estate, J. Sharon said the property was sold at tax sale and the estate was never settled. The funds were put in a CD and eventually turned over to the state and is now in unclaimed property.

Public Comments. Shrewsbury resident Ann Vanneman provided packets to the Board regarding issues with VTel telephone services during power outages. She said some residents in Shrewsbury and surrounding towns have no way to contact emergency services during power outages. She said the state must come up with some answers and she encouraged the Board to attend an April 30 meeting with the Public Utility Commission.

Emergency Management Director Mark Tessier said emergency services should be notified of road closures during storm events. N. Tift suggested alerting 211 of road closures and informing fire and rescue officials to check that system for updates. Board

members agreed with M. Tessier's request the Town should pursue obtaining a generator for emergencies.

Solar Subscription. The Board reviewed a solar subscription proposal being presented to the Town by Thomas Hand of MHG Solar. The proposal calls for the Town to receive net metering credits on its electric bill that would offset a portion of the monthly charges. Mr. Hand estimated a \$9000 savings in utility expenses for the Town over the next 25 years.

Mr. Hand responded to several questions raised by Energy Committee member Ken Welch. The developer said this proposal is unrelated to the solar project he was developing at the Pike property on Creek Road.

After further discussion, Board members agreed to revisit the proposal at an upcoming meeting

Recreation Director Job Description. This matter was tabled until the May 6 meeting since no members of the Recreation Committee were present.

Request for Proposals for Wallingford Block. By consensus, the Board set a special meeting for Monday, April 29 at 2:00 p.m. at Town Hall to review Requests for Proposals for the Wallingford Block.

Wallingford Bike Day. Pat Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula approving the donation of two Elfin Lake season passes for Wallingford Bike Day. Motion carried (5-0).

Appointments. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by J. McClallen appointing Robbie Stubbins to the Energy Committee. Motion carried (5-0).

P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne appointing Joyce McMahan as auditor. Motion carried (5-0).

B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger appointing Jane Quigley and Pat Stone to the Conservation Commission. Motion carried (5-0).

R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by N. Tift to accept P. Pranger's resignation as auditor. Motion carried (5-0).

By consensus, the Board appointed P. Pranger to the Scholarship Committee.

Elfin Lake Use Request. By consensus, the Board approved Colleen Battease's request to use Elfin Lake on Monday, June 17 for a Tinmouth Elementary School picnic. Motion carried (5-0).

Selectboard Concerns. R. Regula noted the discussion in the Conservation Commission's Minutes regarding the land behind the fire station to potentially be used for recreation. Board members asked if Conservation Commission members would attend the May 6 meeting to provide an overview.

Other Business. By consensus, the Board waived the Peddler Permit fee for Wallingford Day vendors.

B. Duchesne noted the discussion in the Recreation Committee Minutes related to employing 14-year-olds. He said he was not in favor of it.

R. Regula said Jim Regula and Art Nemeth no longer wanted to serve as Rutland County Solid Waste District Representative and alternate.

Joyce Barbieri asked about offering the Town a Quit Claim Deed on the Railroad House and covering the structure under municipal insurance. The board agreed to seek insurance costs.

J. McClallen said ditches, culverts and right-of-ways had been neglected for 30 years and he would like to see the development of a maintenance schedule. P. Baker said a lack of manpower had been the issue along with limited budgets.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.
Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

Date Approved: 05/06/19